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Fax Cover Letter

Please deliver the following pages to Examiner Dang D. Le 7834

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Message

Re: Serial No: 09/838,741
Filed: 04/19/2001

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37 CFR 1.8(a)

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being sent by facsimile to Examiner Dang D. Le at (703) 872-9318.

Date of Facsimile: 03-31-03 By: Theresa LeBlanc
Theresa LeBlanc

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT & TRADEMARK OFFICE

IN RE APPLICATION OF
Dick L. Knox, et al.

DOCKET NO. 104-22997

SERIAL NO.: 09/838,741

EXAMINER:
Dang D. Le

FILED: 04/19/2001

TITLE: **Pressurized Bearing System for Submersible Motor**

GROUP ART UNIT: 2834

FAX RECEIVED

MAR 31 2003

TECHNOLOGY CENTER 2800

RULE 116 AMENDMENT

Hon. Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks
Washington, D.C. 20231

Sir:

In response to the Office Action mailed January 15, 2003, please amend claims 1, 7 and 12 as set forth below:

1. (Three Times Amended) In an electric motor having a shaft and a bearing located within a housing that is adapted to be filled and sealed with lubricant, the improvement comprising:

a plurality of centrifugal lubricant pump stages located in the housing, each of the pump stages having an impeller attached to and rotating with the shaft and a mating diffuser for pressurizing the lubricant; and

a flow passage leading from the lubricant pump stages to the bearing without passing through any filter for applying sufficient pressure to the lubricant to induce a film of lubricant between the bearing and the shaft.

7. (Three Times Amended) An electric submersible pump assembly for a well, the assembly comprising:

an electrical motor having a shaft and a bearing located within a housing that is filled and sealed with lubricant;

a chamber located in a lower portion of the housing for containing a volume of lubricant;

a flow passage within the shaft leading from the chamber to the bearing without passing through any filter;

first and second centrifugal lubricant pump stages, each pump stage located in the chamber of the housing and each having an impeller attached to and rotating with the shaft and a mating diffuser for pressurizing the lubricant; and

a pump exterior of the motor and connected to the shaft for pumping well fluid.

12. (Twice Amended) A method of operating an electric motor having a shaft and a bearing located within a housing that is adapted to be filled and sealed with lubricant, comprising:

mounting at least one centrifugal lubricant pump stage in the housing, the pump stage having an impeller attached to and rotating with the shaft and a mating diffuser for pressurizing the lubricant;